

Table T08-0264
Estate Tax Returns and Liability Under Current Law and Various Reform Proposals, 2008-2018¹

	Calendar Year											2008-18
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Current Law²												
Number of Returns (thousands)	35.1	15.4	0.0	124.6	130.6	139.4	147.6	155.2	164.9	172.6	187.8	
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	15.5	6.2	0.0	61.0	64.0	67.1	71.7	76.6	79.6	83.2	90.8	
Estate Tax Liability (\$billions)	23.0	17.9	0.0	41.4	44.8	49.0	53.3	57.5	62.1	66.6	73.9	489.5
Obama Proposal³												
Number of Returns (thousands)	35.1	15.4	16.2	17.4	19.2	21.2	23.2	25.2	27.6	29.0	32.4	
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	15.5	6.2	6.8	7.2	7.6	8.5	9.3	10.6	11.7	12.5	13.8	
Estate Tax Liability (\$billions)	23.0	17.9	19.4	21.1	22.9	25.0	27.3	29.7	32.1	34.9	38.5	291.8
McCain Proposal⁴												
Number of Returns (thousands)	35.1	15.4	9.5	10.2	11.1	12.2	13.0	14.0	15.0	16.0	17.5	
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	15.5	6.2	3.4	3.6	4.1	4.5	4.9	5.2	5.6	6.2	6.7	
Estate Tax Liability (\$billions)	23.0	17.9	4.5	4.9	5.3	5.9	6.4	7.0	7.5	8.2	9.1	99.7
Carper, Voinovich, Leahy Proposal⁵												
Number of Returns (thousands)	35.1	15.4	16.2	16.9	17.5	18.4	19.7	20.7	21.6	22.5	24.1	
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	15.5	6.2	6.8	7	7.2	7.5	7.8	8.3	8.6	8.9	9.7	
Estate Tax Liability (\$billions)	23.0	17.9	19.4	20.8	22.4	24.2	26.1	27.9	30.4	32.0	34.8	278.9
Kyl Proposal⁶												
Number of Returns (thousands)	35.1	15.4	9.5	10.2	11.1	12.2	13.0	14.0	15.0	16.0	17.5	
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	15.5	6.2	3.5	3.7	4.2	4.7	5.1	5.4	5.7	6.3	6.9	
Estate Tax Liability (\$billions)	23.0	17.9	8.2	8.9	9.7	10.7	11.7	12.7	13.8	15.0	16.5	148.3
Pomeroy Proposal⁷												
Number of Returns (thousands)	17.9	15.4	16.2	17.4	19.2	21.2	23.2	25.2	27.6	29.0	32.4	
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	7.2	6.2	6.8	7.2	7.6	8.5	9.3	10.6	11.7	12.5	13.9	
Estate Tax Liability (\$billions)	19.5	19.5	21.0	22.9	24.9	27.2	29.7	32.2	34.8	37.8	41.8	311.2
McDermott Proposal⁸												
Number of Returns (thousands)	35.1	38.2	40.5	42.5	44.8	47.9	50.3	51.2	54.8	56.3	60.4	
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	15.5	15.0	15.0	15.5	15.9	16.8	17.6	18.1	19.2	19.2	20.7	
Estate Tax Liability (\$billions)	23.0	20.5	21.9	23.4	25.2	27.0	29.0	31.0	33.0	35.2	38.4	307.6
Salazar Proposal⁹												
Number of Returns (thousands)	35.1	15.4	0.0	124.6	130.6	139.4	147.6	155.2	164.9	172.6	187.8	
Number of Taxable Returns (thousands)	15.2	6.2	0.0	59.0	61.8	65.0	69.2	73.9	76.9	80.5	87.8	
Estate Tax Liability (\$billions)	22.9	17.8	0.0	40.8	44.1	48.3	52.5	56.5	61.0	65.4	72.6	481.8
ADDENDUM												
Projected Number of Deaths (thousands)	2,537	2,561	2,586	2,611	2,636	2,662	2,688	2,715	2,743	2,772	2,802	

Sources: Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center Microsimulation Model (version 0308-6), Table 1. Projections of the Population and Components of Change for the United States: 2010 to 2050 (NP2008-T1) from Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, and Tax Policy Center.

(1) Calendar year. Change in estate tax liability from the current law baseline does not include any behavioral response.

(2) Under current law, 2009 exemption is \$3.5 million with a top rate of 45 percent. The estate tax is repealed in 2010. Beginning in 2011, the exemption will be \$1 million with a top rate of 55 percent, and the credit for state death taxes paid will be restored.

(3) Proposal raises exemption to \$3.5 million and has a 45 percent rate. The deduction for state death taxes paid is extended.

(4) Proposal raises exemption to \$5 million and has a 15 percent rate. The deduction for state death taxes paid is extended.

(5) Proposal raises exemption to \$3.5 million, which would be indexed for inflation after 2010 and has a 45 percent rate. The deduction for state death taxes paid is extended.

(6) Proposal raises exemption to \$5 million. It taxes gross estate between \$5 and \$25 million at 20 percent and gross estate above \$25 million at 30 percent. The deduction for state death taxes paid is extended.

(7) Proposal raises exemption to \$3.5 million and has a 47 percent rate. The deduction for state death taxes paid is extended. There is a 5 percent surtax on gross estate between \$10 million and \$46 million.

(8) Proposal has a \$2 million exemption. Gross estate between \$2 million and \$5 million is taxed at 45 percent, \$5 million-\$10 million at 50 percent, and above \$10 million at 55 percent. The credit for state death taxes paid is restored and estate tax brackets are indexed for inflation after 2009.

(9) Proposal excludes adjusted value of qualified farmland from the taxable estate.